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Message Text

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62
ACTION SAB-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 PM-07 DRC-01 /090 W
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P 292143Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORTIY 239

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1845

FOR BUNKER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,PN
SUBJECT: CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: EDITORIAL IN GOP PRESS

1. THE FEATURE EDITORIAL OF GOP-GUIDED AFTERNOON NEWS-
PAPER EL PANAMA AMERICA MARCH 28 WAS TITLED, "NEGOTIATIONS
ADVANCING" AND INDICATED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER AND
AMBASSADOR BUNKER ARE INTERESTED IN BRINGING INCREASED
RHYTHM TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE SIGNING OF THE 8 PRINCIPLES WAS
CITED AS EVIDENCE THAT THE CAUSES OF CONFLICT WOULD BE OVERCOME
AND THE U.S. AND PANAMA WOULD ENTER INTO A "NEW DIMENSION"
CONCERNING THESE RELATIONS AND MUTUAL INTERESTS IN THE WATERWAY.
DEPUTY NEGOTIATOR BELL'S ARRIVAL AND QUOTE FROM STATEMENTS TO
REPORTERS MARCH 25 WERE ALSO CITED AS "INDICATIVE OF THE INTEREST
DEMONSTRATED BY WASHINGTON TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS
IN A CLIMATE OF COMPREHENSION AND RESPECT."

2. THE EDITORIAL REMINDS PANAMANIANS THAT THEY MUST
"OVERCOME ANY HINT OF INTRANSIGENCY BECAUSE THERE ARE TWO
SIDES TO ANY NEGOTIATIONS...THE SUCCESS OF THE TALKS
DEPEND UPON THE BREADTH AND OPENESS THAT PANAMA AND THE US
DEMONSTRATE IN THEIR DISCUESIONS OF THE OUTLINE FOR A NEW
TREATY."

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3. IT CONCLUDED WITH THE HOPE THAT THE SPEED THAT IS DESIRED

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AND "THE GOOD WILL THAT HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY THE OFFI-
CIALS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WILL MAKE POSSIBLE A
NEW TREATY THAT EMBRACES THE RELATIONS BETWEEN PANAMA AND
THE UNITED STATES OVER THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND DE-
FENSE OF THE PANAMA CANAL."

4. COMMENT: THIS FEATURE EDITORIAL WAS ONE OF THE MOST
FORTHCOMING AND POSITIVE IN ITS TREATMENT OF U.S. INTENTIONS
THAT WE CAN RECALL. IT WAS STIMULATED BY LUIS CARLOS NORIEGA
WHO DETERMINES THE OVERALL EDITORIAL LINE IN THE GOP GUIDED
NEWSPAPERS. HE HAD INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER IN ADVANCE THAT
AN EDITORIAL WOULD BE PUBLISHED TO PORTRAY U.S. INTENTIONS IN A
FAVORABLE LIGHT AND WHICH WOULD COUNTER THE HOSTILE COLUMN BY
RICARDO LINCE. THIS IS THE ONLY LEAD EDITORIAL CONCERNING
THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAS APPEARED IN THE PRESS RECENTLY.
DANIELS

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